



THE PARTHENON

Official Newsletter for Alumni of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi February, 2021

Zeta Delta Thrives On Campus Despite Pandemic

By Paul J. Parks, ZΔ '03

As you can imagine, the Fall semester has been extremely unique, presenting unusual challenges which have fostered creativity from the undergraduates and the Alpha as a whole. It is an understatement when I say that the undergraduates have met many of these challenges head-on and succeeded in what was asked of them. With the Spring 2020 semester activities suddenly cut short due to the closures from the COVID-19 virus, the undergraduates continued pursuing excellence by earning a spot as finalists for two of the three Chi Psi national trophies. While battling the many obstacles brought on by the national pandemic, we still found ourselves as one of the most successful Alphas in Chi Psi and will continue to achieve a high level of excellence.

College is not only a venue for aca-

demical advancement, but social discovery and growth. Providing the undergraduates with a list of guidelines and asking them to limit their actions with others in order to preserve their time at



the Lodge, and on campus, was extremely difficult knowing how I would have reacted to such a request at that

time in my life. Even as COVID-19 numbers grew exponentially on campus, not once, but twice, there was not one positive case in the Alpha until finals week in early December. The University official who contacted me regarding the positive test (per University protocol) was highly complimentary of our undergraduate brothers and informed me that we were one of only a few Greek houses on campus to succeed in making it the entire semester without a positive COVID-19 test.

Due to the spike in students testing positive with the COVID-19 virus early in the Fall 2020 semester, the university shut down the campus and all activities outside of academic work for two weeks in hopes of controlling the spread. The time period for rush only lasts approximately five weeks, so to have a ban on face-to-face interactions for two of those weeks, a ten-person limit on gatherings the remain-

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Remarks from the #1: Noah Jon, ZΔ '23

Twenty-twenty has been quite the roller coaster of a year. We started with fires in Australia and throughout the United States and ended with the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic. Throughout these troubling times, the brothers of AZΔ have stayed strong, safe, and better than ever. With the mandatory tests required by the university and through wearing masks and social distancing, we have been able to mitigate the risks of Covid-19 and keep each other safe. As the newly elected #1, I've assumed the responsibilities of keeping our brothers safe and growing AZΔ to new successes. Through the great work of previous #1s and the support of the alumni, our transition to the new lodge has been a successful journey and we hope to only go up from there.

This pandemic has changed many

aspects of our lives in many drastic ways. No more were the days when we could bring new prospects to the Lodge at any time and show off our beautiful new house in person. Now everything was over a Zoom call. Zoom calls for general meetings. Zoom calls for recruitment events. Zoom calls for social events. Zoom calls had taken over our daily lives in every way possible, but we've managed to overcome these limitations.

This last year we recruited 11 gentlemen that have exemplified their work ethic and dedication to the brotherhood in these trying times. There were many concerns from potential new members regarding financial standings, coronavirus concerns, and others but we didn't let this stop us from recruiting and growing our Alpha.

The strong bonds of our brotherhood

were also exemplified during this last year. Many brothers were unable to come to the Lodge or visit brothers living in due to health concerns and university guidelines and our concerns for each others' safeties made holding events in person not a viable option. However, this did not hinder our brotherhood in the slightest. We had many virtual events that kept us connected, regardless of where we were. Many brothers kept in touch through playing video games with each other or through attending these virtual events. Once the health risks of this pandemic have been mitigated, I am very optimistic that we will be able to continue to exemplify this strength in person.

Another aspect we excelled in this past year was our academics. Often times, balancing academics with social networking is a difficult task, but our

Remarks from the #1

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brothers were able to do that and more with the struggles of being quarantined and social distancing. Each brother took responsibility for their own coursework and took the initiative to exceed in each class. We went from being the 22nd ranked fraternity on campus by GPA to the 7th, with the top 6 not being too far away. Our achievements this last year were recognized by both the university and by nationals through various awards. We received the 2nd place award for Outstanding Scholarship Programming and the award for the most improved GPA from our university's IFC. We were also finalists for the Founder's Trophy and Goodbody Award at this past year's National Convention.

Although we have these many achievements under our belt, this is not the end for the growth of our Alpha. Like the previous #1 Evan Fouts' goal, my goal is to become the winner of the

Founder's Trophy at next year's National Convention rather than just being a finalist. I wish to continue our growth academically and physically. I hope to recruit many gentlemen to add to the ranks of our brotherhood this upcoming year. Above all, I hope to keep my fellow brothers safe from the physical risks of Covid-19, and make sure that their mental and emotional health is strong as well. Being stuck inside 24/7 is not what



most brothers expected their 2020 to end up like, and it often takes a strong toll on them. However, with the shown tenacity of each individual brother and the strength of our brotherhood, I believe we can succeed through the multi-

Zeta Delta Thrives

(Continued from page 1)

ing three weeks, and taking into consideration X amount of students never arrived on campus, it's amazing Greek organizations were able to pledge anyone this semester. Zeta Delta's hard work and dedication was rewarded with five new gentlemen whom we look forward to initiating in the upcoming semester.

Enough cannot be said about the outgoing undergraduate board. I might have been content if they reacted half as well as they did to all of the barriers they were forced to navigate over the past year, yet they always leaned forward and strived to be better. Training their successors was stressed heavily throughout the last academic year, so I look forward to a smooth transition for the new board which was elected in October, including the new #1, Noah Jon.

I encourage everyone to reach out and congratulate the undergraduates and offer words of advice. With our inability to hold events or share in social experiences with the undergraduates at the Lodge, it is important for them to experience the value of our lifelong friendships and see that being a Chi Psi goes beyond the four years at The University of Illinois.

Technology News from the Fundraising Committee

By: Mathew Murphy, ZΔ '91

Alpha Zeta Delta has achieved a great deal in the last two years, and every time I pause to think about it, I can't help but smile. The sheer determination by the Campaign Committee and generosity of our Alumni Brothers was truly amazing. The capacity to raise these funds in such a short time is a real fundraising achievement. As an organization that relies on these donations to succeed, the Alumni Corporation felt the need to build a long term strategy.

As we reviewed the spreadsheets and talked to our Capital Campaign Committee members, we decided to add fundraising technology to our campaign efforts. If we were to meet our goals of paying off the Lodge's mortgage at 710 Ohio and secure a future for AZD, we needed more than just a few spreadsheets and goodwill. Consequently, the AZΔ Alumni Corporation has invested in a system called Neon One.

Neon is a cost-effective cloud-based software specifically designed for fundraising. This technology allows the AZΔ Alumni Corporation to manage the database of alumni far more effectively, communicate with alumni, and manage multiple fundraising campaigns. We now can track campaign efforts over long periods and hand off these duties to the next set of alumni who will run these programs in the future.

Managing the AZΔ Alumni Data has been a mess and has fallen on the Chi Psi National without any comprehensive

plan. Over the next year, we will be able to update this information and build a process around Neon to ensure we have the latest information.

As in any organization, we value communications! We are looking forward to using Neon to keep our Alumni up to date on the latest with the Lodge successes, AZΔ Alumni Corporation activities, events, and fundraising announcements. The better we help Alumni stay engaged, the more success we will have. This Parthenon, for example, is the first communication using Neon.

Finally, the core value of Neon is its ability to support our fundraising efforts. We can now build a solid strategy with the right information, communications, and enable our campaign committee to better track their success while finding ways to reach all of our 800+ brothers. We have to approach fundraising with a plan and a set of goals we can track over time.

We look forward to taking our funding-raising efforts to the next level and helping AZΔ become successful for the next 100 years.

On a personal note, I was there when AZΔ had to vote and say goodbye to 912 S Second and felt as an alumni corporation, we failed to institute the long-term fundraising efforts to pay for needed improvements and general upkeep which ultimately caught up with us. I look at the Lodge at 710 Ohio as a second chance, and this time, we will not let the same thing happen.

It's Never Too Late to Come Back

Rekindling the Bonds of Brotherhood is Always a Rewarding Experience, Even After Time Away to Focus on Career and Family

By Jeremy Doser, ZΔ '97

I never meant to fall out of the mix. Maybe you can relate. Like me, you probably enjoyed your time as a Chi Psi in college (a safe bet if you're currently reading this), and after you graduated you came back to see your fellow brothers on weekends.

In my case, this was a big part of my Chi Psi experience because I joined the Lodge late in my college career, and also at a time when we did not have a Lodge. So for me it was great to come back and spend time in a real fraternity house. I didn't quite know everybody by then, but I knew enough brothers that whenever I visited I would see people I knew and meet new brothers as well. Being young and without children has its privileges and so I was able to visit often enough to keep up with the current brotherhood.

It helped that I served for a few years as a trustee on the alumni board. But life happens, I got married, I had kids. And as an airline pilot I have a pretty crazy work schedule that requires me to be away from home for several days at a time. So coming home after flying for four days and then leaving for Champaign for the weekend isn't always an easy sell at home.

Still, I managed to visit the Lodge occasionally, albeit less frequently. And then one day I realized that I couldn't remember the last time I'd been to an initiation. And by then I didn't know any of the active members. I suppose that at the time I didn't feel like I was missing out on too much. I had my fun as a young man but I was getting older. By that point I might have been as old as some of the undergrads' parents.

But what I realize now is that I was missing out. While I was away, so many great brothers were pledging, initiating,

and later graduating. And I never got to meet them. After we graduate and grow older our priorities may change but we still share a bond with our Chi Psi brothers of all ages. We don't all experience Chi Psi in exactly the same way, but we have a common experience that brings us all together, even those of us who have never met.

Fortunately a few years back I did find myself at the Lodge once again. It was spring and I had bought tickets to a few Illini basketball games. But this was a school night so bringing the family wasn't an option. So I showed up at 110 East Armory and asked if anyone wanted to go to the game with me. A short time later I was at the game with three brothers whom I had never met. It was a good feeling to be able to get reacquainted with the brotherhood. Just a short time later I was back again to help with the move to the new Lodge at 606 West Ohio.



From left to right at last year's New Lodge Dedication Celebration: Cameron Wall, ZΔ '11; Steve McFarlin, ZΔ '96; and Jeremy Doser, ZΔ '97.

I also ended up serving as a trustee on the alumni board again, and it was during this time that I really realized what I had been missing. Not only did I get to meet a great group of active members, but I also got to meet some of those guys who had graduated before I'd gotten to meet them. I genuinely enjoyed being back in the fold and I was impressed with how welcoming the brothers were. Since then I've stayed involved with the brotherhood and plan to keep it that way. Unfortunately the current pandemic situation makes it a lot more difficult to do that in the same ways we're used to. But I'm very proud of the way

the undergrads have risen to the challenges they're faced with and I look forward to a time, hopefully not too far away, when we can all meet again at the Lodge. And if you're like I was and haven't visited in a while, I hope you'll come too. Trust me, you'll be glad you did.

Even During a Pandemic, Philanthropy Remains a Priority for AZΔ

By: Adam Zhang, ZΔ '23

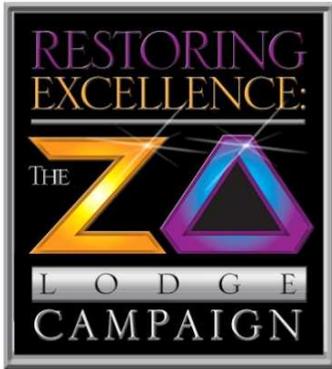
I was honored to be the philanthropy chair of our Alpha during the Fall, 2020 semester. With a global pandemic taking place and all the uncertainties waiting ahead of us, it was an extremely challenging semester for us all. But despite all the difficulties we were facing, I was extremely proud of the philanthropy achievement our Alpha accomplished. During the Fall 2020 semester, I collaborated and organized a philanthropy

event with the ladies of Alpha Omicron Pi, Iota chapter at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Instead of hosting a traditional in-person 5K event, we organized a virtual 5K philanthropy event that was safe for everyone to participate. Our virtual event was benefiting Misericordia Heart of Mercy, an incredible organization based in Chicago that offers care for people who are developmentally and physically challenged. Despite everything being completely virtual, we were lucky enough to have a total of 65 donors do-

ating to our event. In less than a semester, we raised a total of \$3,347 for Misericordia.

I am thankful for all the participants in our philanthropy event, whether through donating or sharing the event; I am proud of the participation from all the Zeta Delta brothers and from all the ladies of Iota chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi. It is extremely heartwarming to see the kindness and generosity from different people, especially in challenging times like these.



Restoring Excellence: The Zeta Delta Lodge Campaign

Pledge Form - Phase 2

Option A – Donation to Alumni Corporation to Pay Down Mortgage (Gifts are not Tax-Deductible)

I hereby pledge that I will make a gift of \$_____ to the Corporation of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi during Phase 2 of the Zeta Delta Lodge Campaign. I understand that my gift will go toward paying down the mortgage on the new Lodge located at 710 West Ohio Street, Urbana, Illinois, or toward other operating expenses that the Board of Directors deems necessary for the upkeep and maintenance of the new Lodge.

I acknowledge that my donation is not tax-deductible.

Check enclosed (Please make payable to The Corporation of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi and send your payment to Chris Riehs, ZA '90, 3520 Timber Creek Lane, Naperville, IL 60565)

I would like to make recurring payments of \$_____ on the _____ day of every _____ (month or year) for the next _____ (months) (years) for up to five (5) years.

I will make my donation online or set up my recurring payments at www.AZDChiPsi.org/Campaign

Option B – Donation to the Zeta Delta Fund of the Chi Psi Educational Trust (Gifts are Tax-Deductible)

Additionally (or alternatively), I hereby pledge that I will make a gift of \$_____ to the Chi Psi Educational Trust during Phase 2 of the Zeta Delta Lodge Campaign. I understand that my gift will be used to fund scholarships, educational programs, materials or items, and other activities conducted or funded by the Chi Psi Educational Trust, a 501(c)(3) organization, for the benefit of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi.

Check enclosed (Please make payable to The Chi Psi Educational Trust, write "Zeta Delta" in the memo, and send your payment to Chris Riehs, ZA '90, 3520 Timber Creek Lane, Naperville, IL 60565)

I would like to make recurring payments of \$_____ on the _____ day of every _____ (month or year) for the next _____ (months) (years) for up to five (5) years.

Signature

Alpha/Year

I wish to remain
anonymous

Address: _____ Email: _____

Bret Bielema Tabbed to Rebuild Illini

Lovie Smith Fired After Accumulating a 17-39 Record Over Five Years

After another disappointing season that saw the Illini win just two games, Athletic Director Josh Whitman fired head coach Lovie Smith last month and moved quickly to hire former Wisconsin and Arkansas head coach Bret Bielema as his replacement.

The 51 year old Bielema is a native of Prophetstown, Illinois, and has Big Ten roots that date back to his playing days, when he was a defensive lineman for the Iowa Hawkeyes under Hayden Fry. He went on to become an assistant coach at Iowa and Kansas State before being hired by Barry Alvarez at Wisconsin as defensive coordinator.

Bielema took over the successful Badger program when Alvarez became Wisconsin's athletic director, and led the team to an 12-1 record his first season. He accumulated a 68-24 season at Wisconsin, including two Big Ten championships, before parlaying his success into a lucrative deal to take over as head coach of Arkansas Razorbacks beginning in 2013.

Life in the SEC wasn't as kind to Bielema. After starting off 3-9, Bielema saw moderate success in building the Arkansas program from the ground up, going 7-6, 8-5, and 7-6 in the SEC West the next three years, including two bowl victories. He was fired the next year after going 4-8, and took refuge in the NFL.

New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, A '75, hired Bielema as a defensive consultant in 2018 and promoted him to linebackers coach the following

year. Last year, Bielema served as linebackers coach for the New York Giants before receiving an invitation from Whitman to return to his Big Ten roots.

Since his hiring, Bielema has been busy assembling his coaching staff and shoring up his in-state recruitment ties. He selected Tony Petersen to serve as offensive coordinator and Ryan Walters

Walters has promised to build a defensive system around his talent, rather than forcing a system on players who might not be suited for it as Smith did. For example, he and Bielema have not even yet decided whether to run a 3-4 or 4-3 scheme.

Bielema's most daunting task as he takes over the reins may be to reestablish Illinois as a destination for in-state recruits. Bielema contacted the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association immediately upon being hired to establish a relationship with in-state coaches who rarely heard from Lovie Smith. Bielema knows that focusing on in-state recruiting is a key to sustaining success in the Big Ten, and he and his staff have promised to keep that a priority.

Bielema has also promised to focus on recruiting players who exhibit toughness and discipline. He believes success begins on the offensive and defensive lines, and will recruit players that can dominate in the trenches. Though his offenses have previously focused on a power running game, he has promised that the Illini's offensive will be more wide-open. This will keep opposing defenses more off-guard, and will also help in recruiting offensive talent.

Whether Bielema can turn the Illini program around is yet to be seen. His experience, evolution as a coach and Big Ten roots certainly provide hope. But one thing is fore sure – Bielema's energy and boisterous personality promise to keep Illini football interesting in the years to come.



New Illini head football coach Bret Bielema with his wife, Jennifer Hielsberg.

as defensive coordinator. Petersen, 54, previously served as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Appalachian State. Prior to that, he was an offensive analyst at Missouri following three-year stints as offensive coordinator at Marshall, Louisiana Tech and East Carolina. He has coached a number of quarterbacks who have gone on to enjoy success in the NFL, including Chad Pennington, Byron Leftwich, Gardner Minshew and Jeff Driskel.

On the defensive side of the ball, 34 year old Ryan Walters will be tasked with revitalizing a defense that disappointed under Lovie Smith, after having served as defensive coordinator for the Missouri Tigers the past three years.

Alumni Corporation Board of Directors

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Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi
 45 Rutledge Street
 Nashville, TN 37210

Change Service Requested

ALUMNI DUES AND DONATION FORM

*Please clip or copy & mail to Eugene Bord, ZΔ '06 at:
 1115 Whitfield Road, Northbrook, IL 60062
 Or Pay Online at www.AZDChiPsi.org*

Name: _____ Year: _____

Enclosed is a check in the amount of
 \$ _____ made payable to *The
 Corporation of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi*, which includes \$55.00
 for my 2020-2021 dues
 (\$45 for classes 2016 and later).

I understand that this donation is not tax-deductible.

Please update my address to: _____

(Phone)

(Email)

Event Schedule

ALL IN-PERSON ALUMNI EVENTS ARE
 POSTPONED DUE TO THE COVID-19
 OUTBREAK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

- Feb. 10 **Whisky Wednesday**
Single Malt Scotch
Via Zoom
- Mar. 10 **Whisky Wednesday**
Irish Whisky
Via Zoom
- Apr. 14 **Whiskey Wednesday**
Barrel Proof Bourbon
Via Zoom
- May 22 **Founders' Day Celebration**
It has not yet been deter-
mined whether we will be
able to celebrate Founders'
Day in-person, or whether
we will need to hold a
virtual celebration *via*
Zoom.

For Information and Updates, see
www.AZDChiPsi.org